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28 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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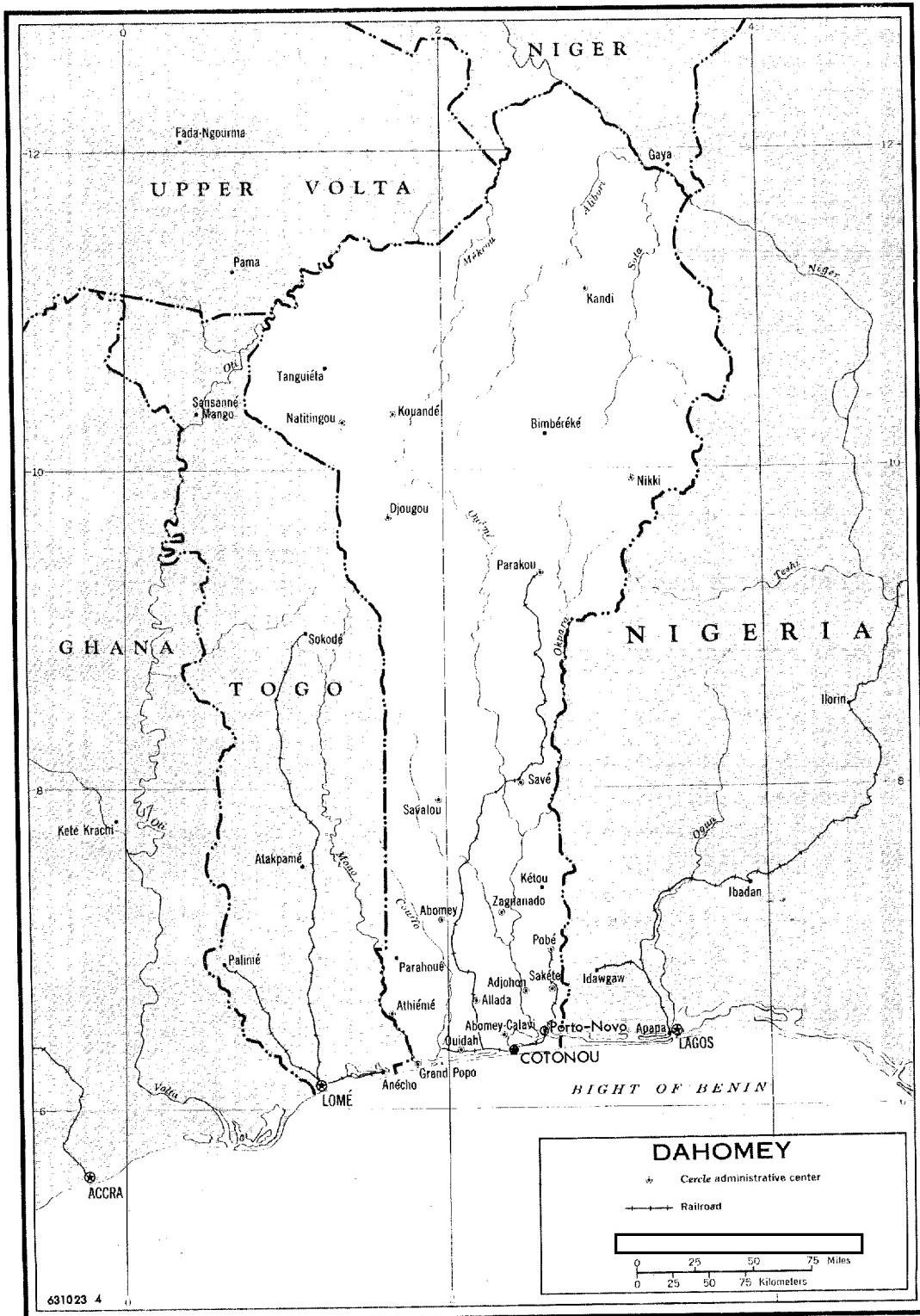
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***Dahomey:** Labor leaders who were largely responsible for the general strike, mass demonstrations, and limited political upheaval which occurred in Dahomey over the weekend are continuing to press for President Maga's ouster and the US Embassy expects the crisis to intensify today.

Younger elements of the labor movement who took over control of the national organization on 26 October are dissatisfied with the arrangement announced yesterday by the army chief of staff. Under this reorganization, Maga is to be retained as President, but within a ruling triumvirate also including Vice President Apithy, a militant nationalist who appears to be the favorite of the demonstrators, and Justin Ahomadegbe, a former President of the National Assembly.

The labor leaders have indicated that they plan to call for a continuation of the general strike until Maga resigns and to set up a "revolutionary committee" including unionists, teachers, and leaders of Dahomey's three principal political factions.

So far, however, the Army has appeared reluctant to remove Maga, who belongs to one of the northern tribes which predominate in the military. He also occupies a key position in the local political spectrum as a buffer between the conflicting ambitions of Apithy and Ahomadegbe, each of whom has a strong following in the more politically articulate southern part of the country.

French representatives in Dahomey presumably are also using their influence to keep Maga in office.

A French foreign ministry official has stated, however, that De Gaulle warned Maga, when the latter was in Paris on 24 October, that France was not prepared to go any further in Dahomey than it had in the almost parallel case of Congo (Brazzaville) where limited intervention by French troops did not prevent ex-President Youlou's overthrow last August.

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Vietnam: The political situation remains uneasy, although the National Day celebrations passed without major incident.

Marring the government's otherwise successful security efforts was the public suicide yesterday in Saigon of another Buddhist monk--the seventh such protest sacrifice since June.

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Ngo Dinh Nhu is attempting to work out a modus vivendi with the Communists. The Diem government appears increasingly sensitive on this issue, realizing that if such reports are given credence by the anti-Communist military, this might galvanize a coup attempt.

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The official press agency has vigorously refuted recent London press rumors of an imminent "truce" between North and South Vietnam, labeling the reports as "sheer fancy."

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Congo: (Congolese officials are apparently divided over their plans to break diplomatic relations with Soviet bloc countries represented in Leopoldville.)

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(there are apparently differences over whether ties with Poland and Bulgaria should be cut. On the other hand some important voices in the government are advocating merely that the size of the bloc embassies be reduced.)

(Meanwhile, Leopoldville is calm; both the civil servant and teacher strikes appear to be petering out. No disorders have resulted from the arrests of the labor leaders. The unions are pressing for their release, but they probably will be tried by a military court.)

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Iraq-Syria: Baathist Party leaders have apparently decided to accelerate the union of Iraq and Syria. Iraqi party leader Ali Saadi has stated that full union will be achieved "long before" the 8 February anniversary of the 1962 Baathist revolution in Iraq. The merger of the Iraqi-Syrian armed forces was announced early this month, and Syrian units are now in Iraq helping in the campaign against the Kurds.

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